

**GARDEN CITY (L.I., N.Y.)
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United Front

President Kennedy has the support of former President Eisenhower, former Vice President Nixon, conservative Republican leader Barry Goldwater, and Gov. Rockefeller, an expert on Latin-American affairs with whom he will confer again tomorrow. He has the support of the whole nation as well in dealing with the problem of Cuba, exacerbated now by the failure of a weak rebel force encouraged by us to go into the island and wiped out or captured by the troops of Fidel Castro. It intervention by this country is the final answer, then the country will stand behind Kennedy in the dispatch of troops. Happily, the last message from Premier Khrushchev is basically mild in tone, so that the pressure to salvage national pride through invasion is, for the moment off.

This is no time for angry post mortems about what went wrong, and there will be none. Everybody knows what went wrong: too few men with too few arms, over-optimistic as to the lion hold of Castro over the Cuban people, permitted to land because our own intelligence services made a dismal botch of reporting the actual state of affairs in Cuba. It serves no purpose to argue whether what took place was really an invasion or more possibly a landing of supplies that was surprised, broken up and misconstrued.

In this case, the American press, ourselves included, has a loud mea culpa to utter. The wire services upon which most newspapers rely took at face value the inflated claims of the rebel forces, both in Miami and at the beachhead, and accepted the preposterous notion that perhaps 400 men could overwhelm the Castro militia of hundreds of thousands, or insure the acquiescence of that force. The result was that the hopes of the country were built up and then dashed to earth. But if the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other military agencies in Washington had not in turn passively encouraged the rebels, and if those agencies had weighed out the consequences of what inevitably must happen, perhaps the press would not have gone off on so wild a tangent. It was, put frankly, a botch all the way around.